

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
May 27, 2008

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd [*arrived at 7:24 PM*], Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department; Robert F. Stahl, Jr., Director of Operations

Pursuant to the requirement of Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-509(c)(2), these statements are included in these minutes:

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 7:59 PM, Tuesday, April 22, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer; Robert F. Stahl, Jr., Director of Operations

On a motion made by Mayor Ambrogio, seconded by Councilman Lucas, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Sections 10-508(a)(3) – Consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and 10-508(a)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. Action taken: (1) Acquisition of property – A motion was adopted to negotiate for the purchase of property, at a specific purchase amount and with stipulations. (2) Town Treasurer recruitment – The Council agreed to interview specific candidates and to conduct a closed session on May 4 to conduct the interviews. The meeting adjourned at 9:51 PM.

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 5:01 PM, Tuesday, April 29, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

On a motion made by Mayor Ambrogio, seconded by Councilman Goldsmith, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(a)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion,

discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the performance evaluation of the Town Manager. Action taken: Conducted evaluation, then reviewed same with the Town Manager. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 12:46 PM, Sunday, May 4, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

On a motion made by Councilman Lucas, seconded by Councilman Goldsmith, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(a)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews of potential candidates for the position of Town Treasurer. Action taken: Conducted interviews; agreed to schedule a closed session on Tuesday, May 6, at 5:30 PM, to continue discussion of applicants who were interviewed. The meeting adjourned at 5:26 PM.

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 5:48 PM, Tuesday, May 6, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas and Mudd; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

On a motion made by Councilwoman Mudd, seconded by Councilman Lucas, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(a)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss candidates for the position of Town Treasurer. Action taken: The Town Council directed Town staff on a course of action to take regarding a specific candidate for the position of Town Treasurer. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 8:41 PM, Tuesday, May 13, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

On a motion made by Mayor Ambrogio, seconded by Councilman Lucas, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(a)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss candidates for the position of Town Treasurer. Action taken: The Town Council directed Town staff on a course of action to take regarding a specific candidate for the position of Town Treasurer; agreed to schedule a closed session on Tuesday, May 20, to be held after the work session, to continue discussion of candidates for the position of Town Treasurer. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 8:56 PM, Tuesday, May 20, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

On a motion made by Mayor Ambrogio, seconded by Councilman Lucas, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(a)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss candidates for the position of Town Treasurer. Action taken: The Council agreed to interview specific candidates and scheduled tentative dates of May 31 or June 1 to conduct a closed session to conduct the interviews. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and asked Mr. Mears to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of April minutes

Mayor Ambrogio moved to approve the minutes of the April 8 special meeting and work session, April 15 work session-quarterly meeting with County Commissioners, April 22 regular meeting, April 22 closed session, April 29 special meeting, and April 29 closed session. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report dated April 30, 2008.

Petitions, Communications, Appearances, and Public Forum

Public Forum

Michael J. Runfola, 113 Morris Drive, thanked the Town for patching a road and having the Town crews pick up litter prior to mowing the grass. Mr. Runfola advised that the storm drainage pond on the southwest corner of the intersection of Heritage Green Parkway and Crain Highway needs attention again, noting it is the slowest draining pond in the community. Mr. Runfola questioned the proposed development on the Mitchell [Johel-FCD] annexation and noted he would prefer senior housing rather than a department store. Mr. Runfola spoke in opposition to Town tax dollars being spent on the Walnut Hill Road sewer connections. Mr. Runfola commended Councilman Lucas for his community outreach efforts regarding the traffic signal that was requested by the developer be installed at Oriole Lane and Crain Highway.

State of the Town report

Mayor Ambrogio read the State of the Town report. *[Attached to the original minutes.]*

La Plata Police Department monthly report – Chief Gittings

Chief Gittings reported on the department's activities during the months of April and May, 2008. Councilman Lucas thanked all of the La Plata Police Officers for attending the May 17 community event in the Kent Avenue corridor community, and offered a special thank you to Officer Payne for organizing the event.

Legislation

Ordinance 08-8 Town of La Plata FY2008-2009 Tax Rate (For Adoption) – For the purpose of adopting the Town of La Plata FY2008-2009 Tax Rate; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to adopt Ordinance 08-8. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance 08-9 Town of La Plata FY2008-2009 Financial Plan/Budget (For Adoption) – For the purpose of adopting the Town of La Plata FY2008-2009 Financial Plan/Budget; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to adopt Ordinance 08-9. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance 08-10 Town of La Plata FY2008-2009 Fee Schedule (For Adoption) – For the purpose of adopting the Fee Schedule, dealing with fees set by the Town of La Plata; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to adopt Ordinance 08-10. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business (None)

New Business

Commission Reports

Councilman Goldsmith reported on topics discussed at the Planning Commission's May 6 meeting.

Councilman Lucas reported on topics discussed at the Crime Watch Council's May 7 meeting and encouraged more people to attend; and reported on topics discussed at the Design Review Board's May 21 meeting.

Councilwoman Mudd reported that the May 17 event in the Kent Avenue corridor community had been a big success. Councilwoman Mudd also encouraged more people to attend Crime Watch Council meetings; and reported on topics discussed at the Beautification Commission's May 19 meeting.

Mayor Ambrogio reported that the May 26 Memorial Day Ceremony was successful and the guest speaker, Dr. Sanchez, did a wonderful job. Mayor Ambrogio announced that the Friday evening, May 30 concert would be held on the parking lot side of the Town Hall due to the landscaping work being done on the west lawn.

Motion for Closed Session

Mayor Ambrogio moved to conduct a closed session, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* Section 10-508(a)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas and Mudd voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. Following a short break, the Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk